

November 13, 2020

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS
P.O. BOX 4368
BATON ROUGE, LA. 70821

RE: Legislative Filing Penalty
September 2020 Lobbyist Expenditure Report
No. 7019112000193304753
Carol Watson Smith

Dear Ms. Millet and Ethics Adjudicatory Board:

On November 6, 2020, I received a letter detailing my penalties for delinquent submission of my September 2020 Lobbyist Expenditure Report. While I do not dispute that the report was delinquent, my request is that consideration be given to the unforeseen circumstances that I was facing during the time of the delinquency.

As a resident of the Greater New Orleans Metropolitan Area, we suffered a direct hit from Hurricane Zeta on Wednesday, October 28, 2020. In the aftermath of the hurricane, we were without lights for up to a week in our homes and businesses. My report was submitted the following week, on November 4, 2020.

While I acknowledge that I have been delinquent in the past by a few days, my delinquency in submitting the September report and the extent to which it was delayed, was due solely to the fact that during the course of preparing for the landfall of Hurricane Zeta and attending to the needs of my home and family after landfall, I was understandably, distracted.

I sincerely ask that you reconsider the penalty that has been imposed and consider the circumstances which lead to my delinquency.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention.

Respectfully,

Carol W. Smith



Optimum Management

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